

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

2004 SEP 23 P 12:03
CIVIL ACTION #04 11917 WGY

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASS.

WILLIAM ROWE,
PLAINTIFF

v.

SHARRON WENDY VALLIERE,
DEFENDANT

**DEFENDANT'S AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT**

Now comes Sharron Wendy Valliere, in the above-entitled matter and under oath deposes and says that:

1. I am the Defendant in the above-entitled matter and reside at 237 Maple Street, Stowe, Vermont. I also maintain a residence at 8 Cynthia Avenue, Nantucket, Nantucket County, Massachusetts.

2. On August 12, 2004, I filed a Verified Complaint in Equity with the Nantucket Probate & Family Court seeking specific performance of a partnership agreement dated June 21, 2002, between the Plaintiff in this action and me. A copy of the Verified Complaint, Nantucket Probate & Family

Court Docket No. 04E 0002-GC, is attached hereto as *Exhibit A* and incorporated by reference.

3. I was a resident of Nantucket, Nantucket County, Massachusetts for the period of my cohabitation with the Plaintiff in this matter, and all claims arising from his complaint occurred during the period of our cohabitation.
4. I am in Nantucket, Nantucket County, Massachusetts on a regular basis to conduct my interior design business known as Seldom Scene at 35 Old South Road. I own the commercial real estate at 35 Old South Road, Nantucket.
5. I consider Massachusetts my principal domicile, have a Massachusetts driver's license and auto registration and pay Massachusetts state income taxes.
6. I use my Massachusetts address for state and federal tax filing purposes.
7. The Nantucket County Sheriff served me in hand with the summons in this matter in Nantucket, Massachusetts on September 17, 2004.
8. The Plaintiff is fully aware of my continued residence and business in Nantucket.

9. Upon information and belief the Plaintiff has brought this action in retaliation for my efforts to collect over \$120,000 that I have invested in a boat covered by the partnership agreement which is the subject matter of the Verified Complaint attached as ***Exhibit A***.

Signed under the penalties of perjury this 21st day of September 2004.


SHARRON WENDY VALLIERE

STATE OF VERMONT

Lamoille County

On this 21st day of September, Sharron Wendy Valliere, personally appeared before me, and proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, to wit, a Massachusetts driver's license with photo, to be the signer of the foregoing document, and who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of said document are truthful and accurate to the best of her personal knowledge and belief.


Sandra Immediato
Notary Public
My Commission expires: 2/10/07

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the above document was served upon the attorney of record for the Plaintiff by mail, postage prepaid, on September 22, 2004.

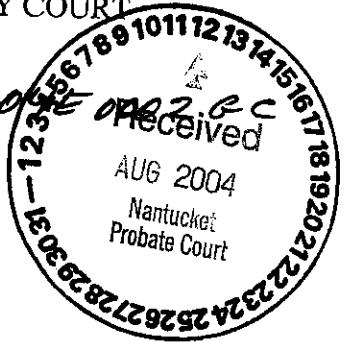

Carol A. Witt

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

NANTUCKET, ss.

PROBATE & FAMILY COURT

EQUITY ACTION NO.: 04-226



SHARRON WENDY VALLIERE,

Plaintiff

v.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT IN EQUITY

WILLIAM T. ROWE,
DefendantJURISDICTION

This action is commenced under the general equity jurisdiction of the Court as provided in M.G.L.A. c. 215, § 6.

PARTIES

1. The Plaintiff, Sharron Wendy Valliere resides at 237 Maple Street, Stowe, Vermont.
2. The Defendant, William T. Rowe resides at 110 Orange Street, Nantucket, Nantucket County, Massachusetts.

COUNT I
SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE

3. On June 21, 2002, the Plaintiff and Defendant executed Articles of Agreement forming a partnership under the trade name and style of "The Witchcraft Partnership".
4. The partnership was established for the purpose of constructing and buying a 33' Fortier sport fishing boat (#FDF33067D102TAN).
5. In furtherance of said partnership the Plaintiff made cash payments in the approximate amount of \$108,000 directly to the Defendant and to the boat yard constructing the boat, and in addition thereto provided custom upholstery, fabric and other capital

improvements to the boat both during and after construction, and paid excise taxes and insurance on the vessel.

6. The 33' Fortier sport fishing boat was under construction for approximately three years during which time its value increased. At the time construction on the boat was completed the agreed fair market value of the boat was \$325,507.72 and the plaintiff and defendant each owned 50% under the terms of the partnership agreement.
7. Because the Defendant personally borrowed his share of the capital contribution for the boat's purchase and in order for the mortgage to be in his individual name, the title had to be in his individual name.
8. The Articles of Agreement ensured that the Plaintiff's 50% interest in the boat was protected despite the title being in the Defendant's individual name. The Plaintiff at all times was an equal partner with the Defendant in the partnership and its property, namely the 33' Fortier sport fishing boat.
9. At the time the partnership agreement was made the parties were cohabiting. They ceased cohabiting in April 2003.
10. Since April 2003, the Plaintiff has attempted to resolve the issue of reimbursement for her contribution to the partnership directly with the Defendant, who promised on numerous occasions that he was in the process of obtaining a new partner for the boat or refinancing to satisfy her interest.
11. Since the parties' separation, the Defendant has had the exclusive use of the boat, Witchcraft, and has made no accountings to the Plaintiff under the terms of the partnership agreement.
12. On July 29, 2004, the Plaintiff sent the Defendant certified mail notice as required by the partnership agreement of her desire to formally terminate the partnership and sell Witchcraft.
13. The partnership agreement provides that either party may purchase the other's interest in the boat within ninety (90) days based upon an appraised value being established.
14. The Defendant through his attorney and in response to the certified mail notice has denied a valid partnership agreement exists and claims that an oral agreement of the parties terminated the Articles of Agreement dated June 21, 2002. The Plaintiff denies the existence of an oral agreement to terminate her interest in the partnership.
15. The partnership agreement requires that it "shall not be modified except in writing signed by all of the parties hereto."
16. The Plaintiff's 50% interest in boat Witchcraft has a value between \$125,000 and \$150,000 which is to be established by appraisal in the event the Defendant wishes to exercise his right to purchase, or by the market upon sale to a third party.
17. The Plaintiff seeks specific performance of the terms of the Articles of Agreement dated

June 21, 2002, including a termination of the partnership by sale of the boat Witchcraft and distribution of the sale proceeds in keeping with the parties' respective interests.

18. The Articles of Agreement dated June 21, 2002, provide that "any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the partnership herein created, or to this Agreement or the breach thereof, shall be settled by mediation or binding arbitration in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association."
19. The Plaintiff further seeks payment in full of any encumbrance on the boat from the Defendant's share of the net proceeds, as the mortgage represents his individual capital contribution to the acquisition of the partnership asset.
20. The Defendant has the exclusive use and control of the Witchcraft and due to the title being in his name is able to sell, assign, encumber or convey it without the Plaintiff's knowledge.
21. There is a reasonable likelihood that if he is given notice of the filing of this action that the Defendant will hide, secrete or otherwise impair the value of the partnership asset and that the Plaintiff will suffer irreparable harm as a result.

COUNT II
BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY

22. The Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 18 of her Verified Complaint in Equity.
23. The Plaintiff relied upon the Defendant to deal with her fairly in the management of the partnership assets. The Plaintiff contends that the Defendant stood in a fiduciary capacity in his dealings with her, and that he breached that duty in engaging in a course of action that was intended to deprive her of the use and value of partnership assets.

COUNT III
CONSTRUCTIVE TRUST

24. The Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 18 of her Verified Complaint in Equity.
25. The Defendant holds title to the 33' sport fishing boat, Witchcraft, in constructive trust for The Witchcraft Partnership under the Articles of Agreement dated June 21, 2002.
23. In the event that the Articles of Agreement dated June 21, 2002, are found not to be a valid contract, the Defendant holds the 33' sport fishing boat, Witchcraft, in constructive trust subject to a 50% interest of the Plaintiff.
26. The Defendant is under an equitable duty to convey the boat to the partnership and would

be unjustly enriched if he were permitted to retain it.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff seeks the following relief:

27. That the court enter an ex parte temporary restraining order prohibiting and restraining the Defendant from selling, assigning, transferring, encumbering or alienating the partnership assets of The Witchcraft Partnership, including but not limited to the 33' Fortier sport fishing boat and further that the Defendant be prohibited and restrained from removing the boat from its current dock in Nantucket, putting additional hours on the boat during the pendency of this matter or taking any other action with respect to the boat that would impair its fair market value.
2. That the court issue a summons and order of notice for a hearing on whether a preliminary injunction should issue prohibiting and restraining the Defendant from selling, assigning, transferring, encumbering or alienating the partnership assets of The Witchcraft Partnership, including but not limited to the 33' Fortier sport fishing boat; and further that the Defendant be prohibited and restrained from removing the boat from its current dock in Nantucket, putting additional hours on the boat during the pendency of this matter or taking any other action with respect to the boat that would impair its fair market value.
3. That the court grant specific performance of the partnership agreement for The Witchcraft Partnership, including ordering the Defendant to comply with the Arbitration provision of that agreement.
4. That the Defendant be required to make an accounting to the Plaintiff for the partnership assets.

AND FOR SUCH OTHER RELIEF AS THE COURT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

THIS COMPLAINT IS PERSONALLY SIGNED BY THE PLAINTIFF UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY AND IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION OF THE PLAINTIFF.

Dated: August 12, 2004


SHARRON WENDY VALLIERE

Appearing for the Plaintiff
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